IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A recording ink comprising:

water,

a wetting agent,

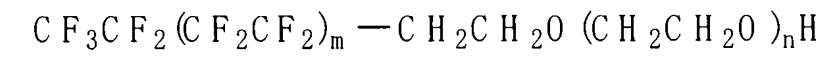
a surfactant, and a colorant

wherein

the colorant is an aqueous dispersion of polymer fine particles comprising a colorant,

the wetting agent comprises 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol,

the surfactant is at least one of the group of compounds selected from the group consisting of compounds represented by the formula (I):



Formula (I)

wherein "m" is an integer of 0 to 10 and "n" is an integer of 1 to 40, and

the recording ink is at least one selected from the group consisting of a cyan ink, a magenta ink, and a yellow ink.

Claim 2 (Original): The recording ink according to claim 1,

wherein the wetting agent is any one of (1) a combination of 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol and glycerin and (2) a combination selected from the group consisting of combinations of (i) 3-methyl-1,3-butanediol, glycerin and at least one of (ii) 1,3 butanediol, triethylene glycol, 1,5-pentadiol, propylene glycol, 2-methyl-2,4-pentadiol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, trimethylol propane and trimethylol ethane.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The recording ink according to claim 1,

wherein an amount of the wetting agent in the recording ink is from 20 % by mass to 50 % by mass.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The recording ink according to claim 4,

wherein the polymer of the polymer fine particles is a vinyl polymer or a polyester polymer.

Claims 6-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The recording ink according to claim 1,

wherein the recording ink further comprises a C_8 to C_{11} polyol compound and a glycol ether compound.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The recording ink according to claim 9,

wherein the C_8 to C_{11} polyol compound is 2-ethyl-1,3-hexanediol or 2,2,4-trimethyl-1,3-pentanediol.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The recording ink according to claim 1,

wherein a viscosity of the recording ink at 25 °C is in the range from 5 mPa·sec to 20 mPa·sec.

Claims 12-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Previously presented): An ink cartridge comprising:

a container and a recording ink contained in the container,

wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): An inkjet recording apparatus comprising:

an ink ejecting unit by which to a recording ink, a stimulation is applied and the recording ink is ejected for forming the image,

wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 15,

wherein the stimulation is one selected from the group consisting of heat, pressure, vibration and light.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The ink jet recording apparatus according to claim 15,

wherein at least a part of the liquid space part, fluid resistance part, vibrating plate and nozzle of the inkjet head is produced using a material comprising at least one of silicone and nickel.

Claim 18 (Original): The inkjet recording apparatus according to claim 17,

wherein the nozzle of the inkjet head has a diameter of 30 μm or less.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): An inkjet recording process comprising:

ejecting a recording ink by which to the recording ink, a stimulation is applied and the recording ink is ejected for forming the image,

wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The inkjet recording process according to claim 19,

wherein the stimulation is one selected from the group consisting of heat, pressure, vibration and light.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): An ink record comprising:

an image formed on a recording medium using a recording ink,

wherein the recording ink is the recording ink according to claim 1.